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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

an input/output (I/O) device operative to:

receive a fragment of electronic data from a node on a network;

determine characteristics of the fragment of electronic data;

moderate one or more interrupts to a processor if the characteristics of the fragment of electronic data indicate that the fragment of electronic data is latency-sensitive data.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the latency-sensitive data comprises an acknowledgement (ACK).

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said I/O device comprises a network interface card (NIC).

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the latency-sensitive data comprises one or more data packets that have a priority designation.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said I/O device is operative to moderate by substantially immediately asserting said one or more interrupts of said associated computing platform processor.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said I/O device is operative to moderate by deferring said one or more interrupts of said associated computing platform processor so that a predetermined number of interrupts per unit of time is not exceeded.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said I/O device is operative to moderate by deferring said one or more interrupts until a particular number of fragments of electronic data of a particular type are received by said I/O device.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said I/O device is operative to moderate by deferring said one or more interrupts until a particular quantity of electronic data is received.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said moderation of associated computing platform interrupt scheme is configurable through a user interface.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

said I/O device further being operative to measure a particular period of time after the receipt of a fragment of electronic data, and to moderate one or more interrupts of an associated computing platform after said particular period of time has elapsed.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of moderating one or more interrupts of an associated computing platform comprising:

receiving a fragment of electronic data from a node on a network;

determining characteristics of the fragment of electronic data;

moderating one or more interrupts to a processor if the characteristics of the fragment of electronic data indicate that the fragment of electronic data is latency-sensitive data.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said latency-sensitive data comprises an acknowledgement (ACK).

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said latency-sensitive data comprises one or more data packets that have a priority designation.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said moderating comprises substantially immediately interrupting said associated computing platform processor.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said moderating comprises deferring said one or more interrupts of said associated computing platform processor if a predetermined number of interrupts per unit time is met or exceeded.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said moderating comprises

deferring said one or more interrupts until a particular number of fragments of electronic data of a particular type are received.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said moderating comprises deferring said one or more interrupts until a particular quantity of electronic data is received.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said moderating is configurable through a user interface.

19. (Original) The method of claim 11, and further comprising:

measuring a particular period of time after the receipt of a fragment of electronic data; and

performing said moderating after said particular period of time has elapsed.

20. (Previously Presented) An article comprising:

a storage medium;

said storage medium having stored thereon instructions, that when executed by a computing platform, result in execution of a method of processing latency sensitive electronic data comprising:

receiving a fragment of electronic data from a node on a network;

determining characteristics of the fragment of electronic data;

moderating one or more interrupts to a processor if the characteristics of the fragment of electronic data indicate that the fragment of electronic data is latency-sensitive data.

21. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 20, wherein said latency-sensitive data comprises an acknowledgement (ACK).

22. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 20, wherein said latency-sensitive data comprises one or more data packets that have a priority designation.

23. (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein said moderating comprises substantially immediately interrupting said associated computing platform processor.

24. (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein said moderating comprises deferring said interrupting of said associated computing platform processor.

25. (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein said moderating comprises deferring said one or more interrupts until a particular number of fragments of electronic data of a particular type are received.

26. (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein said moderating comprises deferring said one or more interrupts until a particular quantity of electronic

data is received.

27. (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein said moderating is configurable through a user interface.

28. (Original) The article of claim 20, and further comprising:

measuring a particular period of time after the receipt of a fragment of electronic data; and

performing said moderating after said particular period of time has elapsed.

29. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

an input-output (I/O) being operative to:

receive a fragment of electronic data from a node on a network;

determine characteristics of the fragment of electronic data;

moderate one or more interrupts to a processor if the characteristics of the fragment of electronic data indicate that the fragment of electronic data is latency-sensitive data.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein one of the one or more characteristics of the fragment of electronic data comprises packet type.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said packet type comprises an ACK (acknowledgement) packet.